

**STATE PLANNING COUNCIL  
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

May 27, 2010 @ 6:30 p.m.  
Warwick Public Library  
600 Sandy Lane, Warwick

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**ATTENDANCE**

**TAC members present:**

Ms. Fran Shocket, Chair  
Ms. Sue Barker  
Mr. Mark Carruolo  
Mr. Michael Cassidy  
Mr. Russ Chateaufneuf  
Dr. Judith Drew  
Mr. Robert Murray  
Ms. Linda Painter  
Mr. Paul Reynolds  
Mr. Paul Romano  
Mr. Barry Schiller  
Mr. Robert Shawver  
Mr. Henry Sherlock  
Mr. Everett Stuart  
Mr. Mark Therrien  
Mr. Michael Walker  
Dr. Robert Vanderslice

Public Member – Jamestown  
Greenways Alliance  
City of Warwick  
City of Pawtucket  
RI Dept. of Environmental Management  
Governor's Commission on Disabilities  
Public Member – Smithfield  
City of Providence  
Public Member – South Kingstown  
Public Member – Bristol  
RI Sierra Club  
RI Department of Transportation  
Construction Industries of RI  
RI Association of Railroad Passengers  
RIPTA  
RI Economic Development Corporation  
RI Department of Health

**TAC members absent:**

Mr. Dan Boudouin  
Mr. Alan Brodd  
Ms. Marilyn Cohen  
Mr. Kevin Dillon  
Dr. Robert Quigley, Vice Chair  
Ms. Jane Sherman  
Mr. Jim Soctomah  
Mr. Michael Wood

Providence Foundation  
Cumberland Water Department  
RI Chapter, American Planning Association  
RI Airport Corporation  
Aquidneck Island Planning Commission  
Public Member – Providence  
Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation  
Town of Burrillville

**Others in attendance:**

Ms. Diane Badorek  
Ms. Barbara Breslin  
Mr. Grant Dulgarian  
Mr. Richard Langseth  
Mr. Mike Sherrill  
Ms. Pam Sherrill  
Mr. Kevin Viveiros

RIDOT  
FHWA  
  
Pare Corporation

**Statewide Planning Staff Present:**

Mr. Kevin Flynn  
Mr. Jared Rhodes  
Ms. Karen Scott  
Ms. Ronnie Sirota

Associate Director  
Chief  
Acting Supervising Planner  
Principal Planner

**AGENDA ITEMS**

**1. Call to Order**

Ms. Shocket called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**2. Approval of March 25, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

Upon motion of Mr. Murray to approve and seconded by Mr. Sherlock, the April 22, 2010 minutes were accepted unanimously.

**3. Public Comment on Agenda Items**

There were none.

**4. United Transportation Planning Work Program- FY'10 – Amendment #1**

- Draft enclosed with Committee packets – *for action*.

Mr. Therrien gave a presentation on their requested item for action. RIPTA is seeking an amendment in the United Transportation Planning Work Program for FY'10 to include a corridor study. Money will be shifted from some projects that have ended with some funding remaining. The study has gone to bid; however, for the actual contract, TAC approval for the Amendment is needed. After approval of the Amendment, then an Administrative Adjustment to the TIP will be completed which requires approval from the Secretary of the State Planning Council and notice to the Transportation Advisory Committee and the State Planning Council.

RIPTA's requested revision is to complete an Alternatives Analysis and Environmental Assessment for evaluating transit alternatives in downtown Providence. The recently completed Metropolitan Providence Transit Study included several recommendations, including the construction of a streetcar system in Providence. This proposed study would consider several transit modes. After Mr. Therrien's presentation, Ms. Painter who represents the City of Providence on the TAC, recused herself from the vote.

Mr. Walker moved that:

**The Transportation Advisory Council (TAC) recommend that the State Planning Council approve the revision to the FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program to complete an Alternative Analysis and Environmental Assessment for evaluating transit alternatives in downtown Providence.**

Mr. Cassidy seconded the motion.

During discussion of the proposed Amendment, Mr. Schiller expressed reservations in a study. He believed that it is very unlikely that a study of alternatives would result in the recommendation of streetcars. He therefore believes that better things could be accomplished with the money. Due diligence is needed by the State Planning Council to make sure the money will be well spent before they approve this.

Mr. Schiller abstained from the vote on the Amendment, which was passed unanimously.

**5. Unified Transportation Planning Work Program – FY’11**

- Draft enclosed with Committee packets – *for action*.

Mr. Rhodes spoke about the Work Program for FY2011. He stated that he provided a very detailed overview of the proposed tasks at the last meeting. At this meeting he would like to point out the revisions that have since been made. These include:

The addition of the background and reporting sections which are Parts 1 and 2 respectively.

Within Part 3:

- The calling out of tasks 1020-1045 as separate distinct focal points for planned activities.
- The revision of the text now found under task 1015-5 to reflect the documentation of previous year obligations vs. expenditures.
- The addition of item 4 under task 1025 in response to Committee Member Schiller’s request to pursue educational opportunities for TAC members relative to air quality analysis and review procedures;
- The addition of an airport reference within task 2030 as requested by Committee Member Clarke; and lastly

The addition of Part 4, which documents how the planned activities will be funded.

Mr. Rhodes then asked if there was anything else that Mr. Shawver or Mr. Therrien would like to add at this point. He also asked if there were any further questions or comments from the Committee. At this point, staff is requesting the TAC recommend adoption of the proposed work program to the State Planning Council.

Mr. Murray moved that:

**The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) recommends adoption of the proposed Unified Transportation Planning Work Program for FY ’11.**

Mr. Schiller seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**6. Implementation Status – Land Use 2025**

- Staff presentation – *for information*.

Mr. Flynn gave the presentation, which had also been presented at the Smart Growth Summit. This 25-minute presentation represents what the RI Division of Planning achieved over the last four years since the Land Use Plan 2025 was written. Mr. Flynn showed a video first.

One major emphasis is that it took 330 years to develop the first 20% of Rhode Island's land area and 25 years for the next 10%. The development rate is 9 times higher than the corresponding population growth. Mr. Flynn stated that this is not desirable.

Themes involve changing the game; building local planning capacity, and leading by example. Mr. Flynn also explained the responsibilities of the Division of Planning, State Planning Council, etc. He also pointed out some of the highlights in various cities and towns in Rhode Island.

## 7. **Staff Report**

Ms. Scott gave the staff report:

1. **TIP – Administrative Adjustment #7**, which added the FRA grant for Kingston Station to the TIP has been processed and approved. The updated TIP tables are on-line. Ms. Scott stated that if anyone would like a hard copy sent to them, just let her know.
2. **Transportation 2030 – Amendment #1** which was heard at the last TAC meeting was approved by the State Planning Council and has been incorporated into Transportation 2030. The updated transportation plan is available on-line. If anyone would like an updated copy sent to them, just let Ms. Scott know.
3. **SRTS** - Just a quick update on the SRTS selection process. Internal staff review of the applications by RIDOT and Statewide Planning is almost complete. The Selection Committee should be getting the applications for review by early June. We are still on schedule to announce the recipients in late June.
4. **Legislative Update** – As discussed at previous meetings, the Coalition for Transportation Choices has put together a legislative agenda for this year. Ms. Scott updated the TAC on the status of those pending bills:
  - A resolution in support of several federal bills that would promote affordable transportation choices and walkable communities – including CLEAN-TEA, the proposed next surface transportation bill, Complete Streets, and the National Transportation Objectives Act. This resolution has passed the House and is expected to pass the Senate before the session ends.
  - Create a legislative study commission to explore the advisability and feasibility of a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) tax. This bill has passed the Senate and is headed over to the House for consideration.
  - Create the Rhode Island Transportation Trust Fund by increasing the biannual auto registration fees by \$40 and creating a Petroleum Products Gross Receipts Tax. This bill has had hearing in both the House and Senate. There was significant opposition at the Senate hearing to the petroleum products gross receipts tax. The CTC is currently working with the bill sponsors on amendments, which would appease the opposition.

**5. State Rehabilitation Council – Transportation Consortium** – The State Rehabilitation Council convened a Transportation Consortium back in November. The primary goal of this effort is to create an ongoing forum and more comprehensive working group for transportation issues faced by Rhode Islanders with disabilities. Dr. Judy Drew, one of our newest TAC members, is one of the primary organizers of this effort. Dr. Drew briefly explained their work on this.

**8. Additional Public Comment**

Mr. Langseth stated that the Mayor of Warwick announced that construction was to begin this summer on the Apponaug By-pass. He asked if that was true. Mr. Shawver said there is no construction yet that he knows of but it is in the TIP as an earmark.

Mr. Langseth announced that he will be announcing his candidacy for Mayor of the City of Warwick and would like the Apponaug Bypass funding to be used instead to create a Gateway park. He hopes the TAC can have a discussion on this in the future

Mr. Shawver stated that the bids are in for the Wickford Junction. There should be a contract by July.

**9. Other Business**

None.

**10. Adjourn**

Ms. Shocket wished everyone a Happy Summer. The TAC adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Karen G. Scott  
Secretary